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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/901,362	07/09/2001	Stafford McLean	PC10782A	5342

7590

09/10/2002

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EXAMINER

KIM, VICKIE Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1614

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/901,362

Applicant(s)

MCLEAN ET AL.

Examiner

Vickie Kim

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-9, drawn to a method of treating a chemical dependency comprising administering an effective amount of a combination of a delta opioid receptor ligand of the claimed formula I or II; and a serotonin reuptake inhibitor.
- II. Claims 10, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a combination of a delta opioid receptor ligand of formula I or II; and serotonin reuptake inhibitor.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, a treatment of chemical dependency could be achieved by materially different product as evidenced by numerous documents available in the prior art (e.g. US 5591738, US 5597826). Each component in the said combination could be used to treat different disorders such as pain, gastrointestinal tract disorders, depression, anxiety, etc.

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3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and the search required for each group is not same, wherein a reference which anticipates the invention of Group I would not render the invention of Group II obvious, absent ancillary art, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. Even if there were unity of classification, the search of entire groups and/or genus in the non-patent literature(especially, non-patent literature) and database search (a significant part of a thorough examination) would be burdensome, it is undue burden for examiner for the accurate and proper examination, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Claims 1 and 10 are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising a delta opioid receptor ligand of formula I or II. Patentably distinct markush species are independent inventions, *In re Webber*, 198 USPQ 328, *In re Haas*, 198 USPQ 334. Divisional applications may be filled under 35 USC 121, as a result of an office requirement for an election of a patentably distinct species as made herein. *In re Joyce*, 115 USPQ 412. This satisfies the " patentably distinct" criterion since the examiner is not of the opinion that various species are obviously unpatentable over one another and each species (as noted above) is capable of independent manufacture, use, and sale, with the other components of the claimed formulations.

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Applicant is further required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species, even though this requirement is traversed.

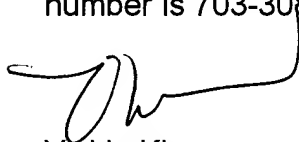
Applicant is also required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claim 1 is generic. The inventions of each possible combination between 1st component(a delta opioid receptor ligand of formula I or II) and 2nd component(a serotonin reuptake inhibitor selected from various compounds) are independent and distinct, each from the other, as they have acquired a separate status in the art and/or require independent searches. It is noted that a reference to one enhanced combination of drugs would not be a reference to another combination of drugs under U.S. C. 103. Further, the claims read on a multitude of enhanced combinations of drugs which would require many field of searches that would be an undue burden on the examiner.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vickie Kim whose telephone number is 703-305-1675. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday. If

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attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marianne Seidel can be reached on 703-308-4725. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-3165 for regular communications and 703-746-3165 for After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vickie Kim', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Vickie Kim,
Patent examiner
September 5, 2002
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